

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 170.12

§ 170.5 Is there a fee to participate in the USDA Farmers Market?

No, there are no fees charged to participate in the market.

§ 170.6 How are potential market participants identified for the USDA Farmers Market?

Potential market participants are recruited by AMS market management through local farm organizations in the Washington DC metropolitan area State Departments of Agriculture from the mid-Atlantic region including, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Upon receiving a list of potential farmers and vendors from the organizations and the State Departments of Agriculture, an information packet, which includes an application and this rule, will be mailed to each potential participant identified by the contacts.

§ 170.7 Can I apply if I am not recruited?

Yes. Interested persons may call or write USDA to request an information packet even if they are not recruited. Those interested may write USDA/AMS/TM/MSB, Room 2646-South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, 20250, or call (202) 720-8317. They may also call the USDA Farmers Market Hotline at 1-800-384-8704 to leave a message to have a packet mailed or faxed. They may also visit the web site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets/> to review the selection criteria, the operating rules, and to receive an application electronically.

§ 170.8 What are the application procedures?

In January of each year, prospective and returning participants must submit to USDA a completed application for participation in the upcoming market season. Each application will include a copy of this rule, which includes the selection criteria and operating guidelines. Each applicant also will certify that each is the owner or representative of the farm or business submitting the application.

§ 170.9 What type of information does the application require?

The application for participation in the USDA Farmers Market will provide market management with information on contacts, farm location, type of farming operation, types of products grown, and business practices, including insurance coverage.

§ 170.10 Must a participant in the market have insurance?

There is no requirement for a participant to have insurance; however, USDA asks that participants with insurance provide insurance information for our records.

§ 170.11 How are farmers and vendors selected for participation in the USDA Farmers Market?

USDA reviews all applications and selects participants based primarily on the type of farmer or vendor (i.e., fruit, vegetable, herb, baker) and secondly, on the specific types of products to be sold. The selection of the participants is conducted by the market management to ensure a balanced product mix of fruits, vegetables, herbs, value-added products, and baked goods.

§ 170.12 What are the selection criteria for participation in the USDA Farmers Market?

The selection criteria are designed to ensure a consistently high level of quality and diverse products are available at the market, while operating in the constraints of space available at the market site. The criteria are:

(a) *Member of one of the three participant groups specified in §170.4 of this part.* The participant must be a producer-only farmer or producer, seller of value-added products, or specialized non-produce vendor.

(b) *Participant offers a product that adds to a product mix.* Market management will ensure that a balanced mix of fresh fruits and vegetables will be maintained throughout the season. Final selection of fruit and vegetable producers will be made based on their ability to ensure a wide range of fresh farm products throughout the season.

(c) *Willingness to Glean.* Participants should commit to supporting the USDA food gleaning/food recovery initiative.